LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE | CHAIRMAN ADAM PUTNAM
1420 LONGWORTH HOB, WASHINGTON, DC 20515 www.GOP.gov PHONE 202.225.5107 FAX 202.226.0154

H.R. 1237 – Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1237 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bart Gordon (D-TN) on February 28, 2007. The legislation was reported out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, as amended, by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

H.R. 1237 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 8, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1237 revises standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecological cytology preparations. The bill requires clinical laboratories to ensure that all individuals involved in screening and interpreting cytological preparations participate in a continuing medical education program in gynecological cytology each year. It further requires the laboratories to maintain records of the results of cytology continuing education programs for each individual and to submit these results to the laboratory's director and the laboratory's accrediting organization in a timely manner.

BACKGROUND

Cytology or cytopathology uses cells or clusters of cells to diagnose diseases, such as cervical cancer. Pathologists are currently required to pass a test to show proficiency in reading gynecological cytology tests. The proficiency test is based on 1992 regulations and has not been updated to reflect the technological growth and innovation in this field.

COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate, "CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1237 would have no net budgetary effect. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues." (CBO Cost Estimate)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at (202) 226-2302.